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Petition requesting clarification of the date and authorship of the
Order/Class name " Monoplacophora "

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(Enclosure to a letter dated 16th September 1957)¹

The Order/Class name Monoplacophora has come into usage for patelliform mollusks, the soft anatomy of which has not undergone torsion. Because of the phylogenetic importance of this group, the name will probably be cited frequently in the future and a prompt opinion by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature on the matter discussed below is requested.

2. The first usage of the name is in an article by Wenz, 1940 (*Arch. Moll.* 72 : 5) as follows : " . . . als sich bei einem Besuche N. Hj. Odhner herausstellte,

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dass er zu einer ähnlicher Auffassung gekommen war und meinte, man könnte die Tryblidiacea geradezu als Monoplacophora bezeichnen . . .". A free translation is as follows: ". . . during a visit N. Hj. Odhner stated that a similar concept had come to him, and frankly he thought one might designate the Tryblidiacea as Monoplacophora . . .". This is the only mention of Monoplacophora in the entire paper. There is neither description, diagnosis, or any other form of indication. The sentence quoted appears under a section headed "Die Tryblidiacea". So far as it is known the name Monoplacophora was never used in any subsequent papers by Wenz or in any paper by Odhner.

3. The second usage of Monoplacophora is in a formal classification by Knight, 1952 (*Smiths. Misc. Coll.* 117 : 47) where the taxon is considered an order and diagnosed. Authorship of the term is attributed by Knight, 1952 (*Smiths. Misc. Coll.* 117 : 5) to Wenz. From the text it seems clear that Knight refers to the 1940 paper by Wenz. The third significant usage is a formal definition of Monoplacophora as a Class by Lemche, 1957 (*Nature* 179 : 413-414). Authorship of the taxon is attributed by Lemche to Odhner, 1940. Except for a mention of the name by Kaestner, 1952 (*Lehrb. Speziellen Zoologie*, Teil 1, Wirbellose (Lief. 2) : 229) so far as it is known, Monoplacophora has not been formally used in other publications.

4. It is clear that ambiguity surrounds the first usage of Monoplacophora and that the wording is subject to several different interpretations. We request that date and authorship of the taxon Monoplacophora be decided by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in accordance with the *Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature*, Decision 114(3).

(1) The Commission is asked to choose among the three possibilities given below as to authorship and date of the Order/Class name Monoplacophora :

(a) Wenz, 1940

(b) Odhner in Wenz, 1940

(c) Knight, 1952

(2) The Order/Class name Monoplacophora with approved authorship and date be placed on the *Official List of Order/Class-Group Names in Zoology*.

(3) Either (a) or (b) or both, depending on the decision of the Commission be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Order/Class-Group Names in Zoology*.



PURCHASED
31 MAR 1958